

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01228 162144Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1228

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, MASS, AR
SUBJECT: MILITARY TRAINING AND OTHER COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA

REF: 77 BUENOS AIRES 9281

1. MORE THAN TWO MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE I
RECOMMENDED THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BE
ALLOWED TO PURCHASE MILITARY TRAINING IN THE
UNITED STATES. I MADE THIS RECOMMENDATION ON
THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE THAT RANKING MEMBERS OF
THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME SENSITIZED
TO US HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, AND WERE MAKING
EFFORTS TO ANSWER THESE CONCERNS.

2. SINCE MY RECOMMENDATION WAS SENT THERE HAS
BEEN NEW EVIDENCE OF THIS KIND OF EFFORT: TWO
INSTALLMENTS OF THE TOTAL PEN DETAINEE LIST
HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED--MORE ARE PROMISED SOON--
AND RIGHT OF OPTION CANDIDATES ARE AT LAST BEING
PROCESSED. MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY TOLD ME
TODAY (2/16) THAT 21 NEW RIGHT OF OPTION CASES WOULD BE
APPROVED BY HIS COMMITTEE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. HE
TOLD ME AGAIN THAT NO OBSTACLE WOULD BE PUT IN THE WAY
OF CONSULAR VISITS TO RIGHT OF OPTION. HE EXPRESSED
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HIS PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEUTSCH, VOGLER AND TIMMERMAN
CASES, AND STATED THAT THE JUNTA WOULD BE CONSIDERING
THESE CASES SOON.

3. I CANNOT REPORT A NET IMPROVEMENT IN THE TOTAL HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION HERE. IT IS THAT SENSITIVITY HAS
GROWN AND THAT CONSCIOUS STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO PLEASE

US.

4. SOME RESPONSIVE GESTURE ON OUR PART MUST BE MADE, TO NOTE THIS LIMITED PROGRESS. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERLOAD THE DISAPPEARANCES, TORTURE AND IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT CHARGE THAT TAKE PLACE HERE. I DO NOT SUGGEST THAT ANYONE TRY. WHAT I SUGGEST IS THAT THE US SEND A LIMITED SIGNAL RECOGNIZING THAT AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO ACCOMMODATE OUR OPINION.

5. THE CENTRAL ISSUE HERE IS THAT OF MILITARY TRAINING. THE IMPORTANCE THIS HAS TO THE ARGENTINES HAS BEEN MADE AMPLY CLEAR TO ME AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

6. WE MUST NOT CLOSE ALL DOORS ON ARGENTINA. TRAINING IS A VERY EMOTIONAL SUBJECT WITH GOA AND A REFUSAL WILL STRONGLY JEOPARDIZE OUR RELATIONS. I FEEL WE MUST LEAVE A FOOT IN THE DOOR. HARGUINDEGUY AND OTHER KEY MEMBERS OF GOA KNOW OF OUR HIGH INTEREST IN TIMERMAN, VOGLER AND DEUTSCH CASES. WE SHOULD NOT IMPAIR POSSIBLE FAVORABLE REACTION TO THESE CASES BY REJECTING THE TRAINING REQUEST. RECOMMEND APPROVAL ON TRAINING ASAP.
CASTRO

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